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**Champion**

Champion International Corporation

Senator Max Baucus  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

February 19, 1993

Dear Senator Baucus:



The proposed narrowing of bandwidth will cost Champion and its contractors thousands of dollars for equipment modification and replacement. Champion and its contractors currently use approximately 500 transmitters on their three radio systems. The cost of modification alone could well exceed \$50,000 and the cost of replacement would be many times that amount.

The elimination of adjacent channel mileage separations could cause a great deal of interference and confusion when license holders of the same frequency are operating in adjacent license areas. The problems caused by this rule change would greatly reduce the effectiveness of our radio systems and the efficient and safe operation of our business.

The reduction in effective radiated power would eliminate the ability of our current radio systems to provide required communications throughout our area of operations. In order to retain the radio communication capabilities of our current systems, Champion and its contractor associations would be required to build additional transmitter sites throughout our area of operations. The establishing of new sites would require the determination of appropriate sites, obtaining permission to use the site, developing access to the site, providing power to the site and finally purchasing and installing the equipment. The cost and time required to establish a new transmitter site may be very prohibitive.

The proposed consolidation of the 19 existing radio services into 3 broad radio services categories, would greatly reduce the telecommunications service our industry is currently provided by the Forest Products Radio Service. The loss of the Forest Products Radio Service as the frequency coordinator for the forest industry could disrupt years of work, cooperation and progress that have allowed the industry to develop effective and efficient radio systems.

### III. SUMMARY

Good radio communications is vital to Champion's Montana Region and its contractors as well as to the industry as a whole. The efficient operation of our business over a vast area of the Northern Rocky Mountains requires cost effective, timely communications. An effective communication system provides a measure of safety for our employees, our resources, our communities and our state. Champion opposes any change to the current FCC regulations that would lessen the effectiveness of our radio systems.

Respectfully submitted by:



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